Leader: Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi
Population: 35.7 million (thousands of Christians)
Main Religion: Islam
Government: Parliamentary democracy
Source of Persecution: Islamic extremism

The situation of religious freedom for Christians has seriously deteriorated under the influence of the establishment of the Islamic State in large parts of Iraq. In June 2014, a strict version of Islamic law was implemented in the area the militants of Islamic State hold. Christians were forced to convert, flee or pay a tax for religious minorities. As a result, many Christians fled. Moreover, the broader Iraqi society is turning more Islamic, with increased social control on women wearing a veil and observance of Ramadan. Christians most affected by persecution are converts from Islam. However, in areas held by radical Islamic groups all Christians are under great pressure.

PRAY

+ For the thousands of refugees who have fled to northern Iraq or to surrounding countries
+ For Christians who have been left homeless and without jobs
+ That the Islamic State will be turned back and driven out of the Middle East

MORE THAN 140,000 CHRISTIANS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO FLEE FROM THEIR HOMES SINCE ISIS INFILTRATED IRAQ LAST YEAR